



27th District

[www.sen.ca.gov/Lowenthal](http://www.sen.ca.gov/Lowenthal)

# THE LOWENTHAL LETTER

From the Desk of Senator Alan Lowenthal



Volume 1, Issue 3

October 2005

## From the Desk of Alan Lowenthal



Dear friends,

With the end of the first year of our 2005-2006 legislative session, I have much to be proud of. This year I maneuvered four bills through the State Legislature and sent them to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Governor has already signed two of my bills: SB 108 and SB467. SB 108 will further aid HMO's in setting effective health care policy for its subscribers and enrollees. SB 467 aims to improve California's air quality by providing grants through the Carl Moyer Program, to assist with the conversion of non-road, high polluting vehicles to zero emission.

Next year I plan to push ahead on several of my two year bills. Most importantly, I look forward to advancing my port and air quality bills. These bills will continue to put California at the forefront of environmental policy.

As always, I encourage your feedback with regards to California public policy. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Alan Lowenthal  
Senator, District 27

## District Profile Artesia



The village of Artesia, named for its many natural Artesian wells, was unofficially established May 3, 1875 when its first school opened on the corner of 183rd St. and Alburdis Ave.

While Artesia may have been named for its geological features, it was most well known for its many farms, especially dairy farms, that helped supply and produce milk to the rapidly growing Los Angeles area.

In the 1920's and 1930's, Dutch and Portuguese immigrants shaped Artesia into one of the most important dairy districts in Southern California.

*See Artesia on page 4*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 District Profile: Artesia
- 2 Understanding the Propositions
- 3 New Laws
- 4 Upcoming Event
- 4 Artesia Historical Society
- 5 Lowenthal Legislative Update

## Understanding the Propositions

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called for a special election on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005. At the polls you will be asked to vote on seven different propositions. Below we have provided a brief synopsis of each proposition. This is only a brief summary, for additional information please visit the special election [website](#).

### Proposition 73

Prop. 73 would require a physician to contact the guardian of an un-emancipated minor 48 hours before performing an abortion. This proposition defines abortion as causing “death of the unborn child, a child conceived but not yet born. In 1953, a state law was enacted that allowed minors to receive, without parental consent or notification, the same types of medical care for a pregnancy that are available to an adult. In 1987, the Legislature amended this law to require minors to either obtain the consent of a parent or a court before obtaining an abortion. The law was challenged and the California Supreme Court ultimately struck it down in 1997.

### Proposition 76

Prop. 76 would limit state spending to the prior year’s level plus three previous years’ average revenue growth. California will spend about \$113 billion to provide public services through its state budget this year. Eighty percent of that comes from the state’s General Fund for such major programs as elementary and secondary (K–12) education, higher education, health and social services, and criminal justice.

### Proposition 74

Prop. 74 would extend the length of time required before a teacher may become a permanent employee (tenured) from two complete consecutive school years to five complete consecutive school years. The proposition also applies to instructional specialists, counselors, and librarians. Currently, California is one of 9 states that offer tenure after 2 years. A majority of the states (33) offer tenure after three years, and two states award tenure after 5 years. Prop 74 also changes the process by which school boards can dismiss a tenured employee.

### Proposition 75

Prop. 75 would prohibit labor organizations from using union dues for political contributions without expressed consent from individual union members. They must obtain this consent each year on a specified written form. The proposition also requires these labor organizations to report political contributions to the Fair Political Practices Commission. Unions represent employees in negotiations with their employers over salaries, benefits, and other conditions of employment. Unions may also engage in other types of activities unrelated to bargaining and representation such as political contributions.

### Proposition 77

Prop. 77 would make several changes to the redistricting process. The California Constitution requires the Legislature after each census to adjust the boundaries of the districts used to elect public officials. This process is called “redistricting” (or sometimes “reapportionment”). The primary purpose of redistricting is to establish districts which are “reasonably equal” in population. This proposition removes the power of redistricting from the Legislature and gives it to a panel of three retired judges, selected by legislative leaders, to adopt a new redistricting plan. Judges would be required to current plans using 2000 census information. The redistricting plan becomes effective when adopted by the panel and filed with Secretary of State. It would govern the next statewide primary/general elections even if voters reject plan.

### Proposition 78

Prop. 78 would create a new state drug discount program to reduce the costs that lower income residents of the state would pay for prescription drugs. Low income is defined as California residents in families with an income at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. (About \$29,000 annually for an individual and \$58,000 for a family of four.) The program has a \$15 dollar application and renewal fee.

Cont. on PG. 3

### Proposition 79

Prop. 79 would provide prescription drug discounts to Californians, who qualify based on income-related standards, to be funded through rebates from participating drug manufacturers negotiated by California Department of Health Services. These discounts would pertain to families with an income at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. (About \$38,000 annually for an individual and \$77,000 for a family of four.) This discount also pertains to persons in families with medical expenses at or above 5 percent of their family's income. The program has a \$10 application and renewal fee. This proposition is similar to prop. 78 except that it contains additional provisions that deal with lawsuits, administration, and business aid.

### Proposition 80

Prop. 80 would require electric service providers to be under the control and regulation of the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Electric service providers (ESP's) provide retail electricity service to customers who have chosen not to receive electricity service from the utility that serves their area. Under current law, ESPs are only required to register with the PUC for licensing purposes, their rates and terms of service are not regulated by the PUC. Proposition 80 repeals the Deregulation and Blackout Prevention Act

## NEW LAWS

BE ON THE LOOKOUT  
- COMING SOON -

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006

In the first year of the 2005-2006 legislative session, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed over 500 bills that will become law effective January 1, 2006. These laws continue to shape California and impacts its residents. It is difficult, as an average citizen outside Sacramento, to follow these ever changing laws. We have decided to highlight some of these laws in order to keep you up to date. For additional laws and information from this year [click here](#).

- [AB 665](#) Salinas – Business of Massage – This bill requires cities and counties that license local massage business owners or massage therapists to deny a license to any individual required to register as a sex offender.
- [AB 1353](#) Liu – D.U.I.: Education and Counseling Programs – This bill increases the length of treatment programs from 45 to 60 hours for first time driving-under-the-influence offenders with a blood alcohol level of 0.20 percent or more.
- [AB 1385](#) Laird – School Meals – This bill will help to enroll tens of thousands of additional students in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast program by requiring the California Department of Education (CDE) to create a computerized data matching system combining existing databases from CDE and the Department of Health Services to directly certify recipients.
- [SB 97](#) Murray – Spam Email: Penalties – This bill provides that a person who violates California's anti-spam law by sending unsolicited commercial electronic mail ("spam") has committed a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, imprisonment in a county jail for not more than six months, or by both the fine and imprisonment.
- [SB 1018](#) Simitian – Elder Abuse Reporting Act - The Elder Abuse Reporting Act will assist in reducing the number of financial abuse incidents against elder and dependent adults by requiring employees of banks, savings associations and credit unions to be mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse. It applies up to a \$5,000 civil penalty for failure to report.

Upcoming Event  
The Artesia Historical Society  
Presents  
**Autumn Swing**



**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

This year's "Autumn Swing" will be a black-tie gala dinner with entertainment provided by "3 For the Show" a group that performs Swing music from the 1930s and 1940s. A dinner buffet from Café Camellia featuring chef carved prime rib will be served. For information about tickets contact Ron Eveland at (562) 860-3623.

**Artesia** Continued from page 1

After World War II, Artesia became valuable to developers who wanted to build homes. In 1956, the City of Dairy Valley (later became the city of Cerritos) was incorporated. The demand for housing was so great that most dairies ended up selling of their land and moving north.

The City of Artesia was incorporated on May 29, 1959. The City motto is "Service Builds Tomorrow's Progress" and the city flower is the chrysanthemum.

For more information about Artesia, please feel free to visit their website at <http://www.cityofartesia.us/> or contact the Artesia City Hall at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California 90701

**Artesia  
Fun Fack**



The Artesia Water Tower was featured in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* (in 1991). The tower, which was called the Springwood Water Tower, was an integral part of the movie's setting.



The Artesia Historical Society, in partnership with the City of Artesia, is striving to capture and maintain historical information about Artesia. A 1929 vintage home, donated to the society and city, was relocated from its original site on Pioneer Blvd. to 18644 Alburdis Ave., to be used as the new Artesia Historical Museum.

The house has now been restored and material is being gathered for public exhibit. In partnership with the ABCUSD, hundreds of school children attended tours and workshops at the museum during the past school year. The positive response was overwhelming.

## Legislative Update

The first year of the Legislative Session ended on September 8, 2005 and the Governor has until midnight on October 8 to sign or veto all of the bills sent to him. Here is a brief synopsis of my bills that I've mentioned before or that may be of interest.

**SCA 3 – Reapportionment.** Creates an independent redistricting commission, composed of 5 members, which would be charged with establishing congressional, Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization districts, instead of the current system where the Legislature establishes these districts. **STATUS: Senate Appropriations HELD on suspense file 8/25/05.**

**SB 198 – Manufactured homes: installation.** Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish standards regarding all aspects of the installation of manufactured homes. Sponsored by the manufactured housing industry to set up California standards rather than ceding all authority to the federal government. **STATUS: VETOED by the Governor 9/29/05.**

**SB 479 – Childhood obesity mitigation: Long Beach.** Establishes the Long Beach Childhood Obesity Mitigation Pilot Project, to test the effectiveness of a multijurisdictional, public-private partnership effort to mitigate the problem of childhood obesity. The project shall establish policies and procedures that give preference to Medi-Cal eligible children whose participation which will generate federal matching funds. **STATUS: Assembly Appropriations -- HELD on Suspense File 8/25/05.**

**SB 760 -- Ports: congestion relief: security enhancement: environmental mitigation: user fee.** Imposes a user fee of \$30 per each shipping container processed at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Specifies that the funds from the user fee be used in the following manner: one-third of the user fee go to the South Coast Air Quality Management District use the funds to mitigate environmental pollution caused by the movement of cargo to and from the ports via commercial motor vehicles, ocean-going vessels, and rail; one-third to the California Transportation Commission to use the funds to alleviate congestion on the highways serving the ports by improving the rail system that transports shipments from and to those ports and the on-dock rail facilities at those ports; and one-third of the funds to be split between the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles for port security projects. **STATUS: In Assembly Appropriations not heard – Two-Year bill.**

**SB 764 – No Net Increase in Emissions: Ports Los Angeles/Long Beach.** Requires the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to meet a baseline emissions level no later than January 1, 2008. **STATUS: In Assembly Transportation – Two-year Bill.**

**SCR 40 – LNG Siting: FERC.** Memorializes the President and Congress to take necessary action to preserve state and local authority over the siting of liquefied natural gas facilities. Declares that California deserves siting authority over LNG facilities within its borders. Opposes FERC's attempt to gain eminent domain authority for siting LNG facilities in the United States. **STATUS: Chapter 76, Statutes of 2005.**

The second year of the Legislative session begins just after the first of January 2006. All of the bills that were introduced in 2005 remain in the same committee or floor where they were in 2005 and simply pickup where they were left. Additionally, each member of the Legislature can introduce new bills until mid February 2006. If you have any ideas for legislation feel free to send them to my office.

## My Committee Assignments

### Standing Committees

- Environmental Quality (Chair)
- Banking, Finance & Insurance
- Budget and Fiscal Review
- Education
- Labor and Industrial Relations
- Natural Resources and Water
- Transportation and Housing

### Joint Committee

- Fisheries and Aquaculture

### Sub Committees

- California Ports and Goods Movement
- Budget Sub #2
- Los Angeles County MTA
- Higher Education

### Select Committees

- Air Quality
- Coastal Protection and Watershed Conservation
- Defense and Aerospace





## How to Contact Me

### Long Beach

115 Pine Ave. Suite 430  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 495-4766  
(562) 495-1876 fax

### Paramount Office

16401 Paramount Blvd  
Paramount, CA 90723  
(562) 529-6659  
(562) 529-6662 fax

### Capitol Office

State Capitol, Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 651-4027  
(916) 327-9113 fax

## DID YOU KNOW?



- Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
- John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.
- Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.
- John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.
- Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.
- Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.
- Both Presidents were shot on a Friday in the head.
- Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy. Kennedy's Secretary was named Lincoln.
- Both were assassinated by Southerners.
- Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.
- Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, was born in 1839.
- Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was born in 1939.
- Lincoln was shot at the theater named 'Ford.'
- Kennedy was shot in a car called 'Lincoln' made by 'Ford.'
- Lincoln was shot in a theater and his assassin ran and hid in a warehouse. Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his assassin ran and hid in a theater.
- A week before Lincoln was shot, he was in Monroe, Maryland. A week before Kennedy was shot, he was with Marilyn Monroe.

## Meet My Staff



### DISTRICT STAFF

Mark Pulido, District Director  
Cine D. Ivery, Field Representative  
Luis H. Marquez, Field Representative  
Bridget Sramek, Field Representative  
Robin McCray, Office Manager

### CAPITOL STAFF

John Casey, Chief of Staff  
Joshua Tooker, Legislative Director  
Leticia Garcia, Legislative Assistant  
Darren Schwartz, Legislative Assistant  
Nicole Anaya, Executive Secretary

### SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE STAFF

Randy Pestor, Senior Committee Consultant  
Bruce Jennings, Senior Committee Consultant  
Ann Boone, Committee Secretary

### SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE on CALIFORNIA PORTS & GOODS MOVEMENT

Norman Fassler-Katz, Committee Consultant  
Jeff Brown, Committee Consultant